

# TCC 2018 Annual Meeting Report



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1. Attendees gathered for Elizabeth Williams; lecture on Thursday evening.
2. At Mystic Seaport Museum, The *Charles W. Morgan*, the last commercial sailing ship afloat in America. Ships like this transported millions of pieces of transferware to the US in the nineteenth century.
3. Attendees enjoying a tour of the *Charles W. Morgan* at Mystic Seaport Museum.

The Transferware Collectors Club's 2018 Annual Meeting took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Providence-Warwick, RI from October 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> with 64 members in attendance. The meeting was the club's nineteenth annual gathering, and focused on marketing and exportation of transferware from Great Britain to North America.

Following registration and dinner on the 18<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth Williams, David & Peggy Rockefeller Curator, Decorative Arts & Design, RISD Museum, Rhode Island School of Design at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum, gave an interesting presentation titled *Transforming/Transferring Design at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum*, which provided an overview of the collections of the museum (including transferware) and an introduction to the history of Providence and Rhode Island.

The group boarded buses on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> for a day-long visit to the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, CT. The museum is America's oldest and largest maritime museum, with many buildings, vessels, and collections on display. The morning was spent touring the museum complex and exploring the *Charles W. Morgan*, the last commercial sailing vessel afloat in the U.S. Much of the transferware in America was transported from the U.K. on similar vessels. Following lunch at the museum's Latitude 41 restaurant, our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Neil Ewins, Senior Lecturer in Design History, University of Sunderland, UK, gave the first of his two keynote presentations, titled "*Supplying the Present Wants of Our Yankee Cousins...: Staffordshire Ceramics and the American Market 1775-1880*". Completing the day at Mystic, Fred Calabretta, Director of Collections Management and Senior Curator at the museum, gave a presentation titled *Mystic Seaport's Collections: A Maritime Treasure* which gave us a glimpse of the extensive collections of the museum in storage, including transferware. A number of interesting pieces from the museum's transferware collection were on display for our group. After dinner back at the hotel, the annual *Show and Discuss* session was held, with members showing pieces from their collections for the group to learn about or provide information on.

Dr. Ewins gave his second lecture, *Origins, Backgrounds and Cultural Identities of American Importers and Dealers*, following breakfast on the 20<sup>th</sup>, kicking off a full day of presentations and workshops. Drawing on the extensive research done for his new book with Richard Halliday, *Chinese Export Porcelain Influences on British Transferware*, Loren Zeller gave a presentation titled, *Chinese Export Porcelain and Its Influence on the Development of British Printed Ceramics*. TCC Treasurer Frank Davenport took us under the waves to explore the transferware salvaged from a shipwreck off the coast of New Jersey with his lecture, *Explore the Shipwreck "Aurora"*.

After lunch, attendees chose between two workshops, *Transferware Restoration 102* by Scottish ceramics restorer Sherri Conn and *Transferware 101* by long-time dealer and TCC Bulletin editor Michael Weinberg. Following the workshops, the group gathered for an announcement by TCC Database Editor Connie Rogers that the database had passed 15,000 patterns and 1,000 sources listed! In the evening, the group traveled by coaches to the Wharf Tavern in Warren, RI for dinner overlooking the Providence River.

The Annual General Meeting was held after breakfast on the last day. Reports were given by the officers and chairpersons of the various TCC Board committees. Elections were held for three board members, with Pat Halfpenny and Jo Anne Jones reelected for three-year terms and new board member Brenda Hornsby Heindl elected to her first term. Out-going board member and TCC Secretary Leslie Bouterie received a well-deserved round of applause for her service to the organization. Membership Chair, Jo Anne Jones, reported that our membership is growing including the new Institutional-Business membership category. Treasurer Frank Davenport reported on the organization's finances, showing them to be stable. Officers, including Brenda Hornsby Heindl as the organization's new Secretary, were voted on by the Board following the Annual General Meeting. Scott Hanson was reelected as President, Michael Sack as Vice-President, and Frank Davenport as Treasurer. Our final presentation, *Autobiography of a Garden on Twelve Engraved Plates* was by Andrew Raftery, professor in printmaking at the Rhode Island School of Design and collector of historic transferware. A video about the creation of this modern transferware was followed by a question and answer session with the artist. A full set of the pieces was on display for our group. Before breaking for lunch, the winners of the raffle were drawn. The excellent selection of items donated to the raffle by Ann & Dennis Berard, Sarah Brydges, Rita Cohen, Sherri and Robert Conn, Richard Halliday, Andrew Raftery, Connie Rogers, Paul Wilkn, and Loren Zeller drew a great deal of interest and \$1,882 was raised for the organization. Wrapping up the day, the Annual Transferware Sale was held with hundreds of pieces available from a number of member dealers. Many attendees left with one or more new treasures for their collection (or had them shipped home by the on-site shipping company).

Prepared by Scott Hanson



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4. A view of the recreated 19<sup>th</sup> century New England village at the Mystic Seaport Museum
5. Transferware exhibited in an Empire style mahogany secretary in a house at the museum.
6. A kitchen table set with transferware for tea in a house at the museum.



7. A teapot featuring sailing ships brought out of storage for our group at the Mystic Seaport Museum.
8. Transferware from the collections brought out of storage for our group at the Mystic Seaport Museum.
9. A transferware basin from the collections brought out of storage for our group at the Mystic Seaport Museum.
10. A transferware jug from the collections brought out of storage for our group at the Mystic Seaport Museum.
11. One of the items shown at the Show and Discuss session on Friday evening. This gravy boat in the Enoch Wood & Sons "English Cities" series is a previously undocumented shape and view.

12. Ceramics restorer Sherri Conn demonstrating her techniques during her workshop on restoration.
13. Frank Davenport holds the box while Nancy Parks reaches high to draw a lucky winner for a raffle prize.
14. Artist Andrew Raftery answers a question about his modern transferware project *Autobiography of a Garden on Twelve Engraved Plates* with the full set on display in the foreground.
15. A selection of transferware pieces offered for sale at the Annual Sale concluding the meeting.
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